



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Labor Cabinet

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**Steven L. Beshear, Governor**

**Larry L. Roberts, Secretary**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Governor Beshear Proclaims June 10 Forklift Safety Day in Kentucky**

*Average of three Kentucky workers are killed, 130 injured every year using forklifts*

**FRANKFORT, Ky. (June 10, 2014)** – Governor Steve Beshear today officially proclaimed June 10 Forklift Safety Day in Kentucky. The recognition comes in conjunction with the inaugural National Forklift Safety Day, which will serve as a focal point for manufacturers and employers to highlight the safe use of forklifts and importance of operator training.

“Forklifts are used in numerous businesses and industries across the Commonwealth, from construction sites to warehouses and retail stores, and it is important to recognize the need for proper training and safety measures when operating them,” said Gov. Beshear. “No Kentuckian should be killed or hurt earning a paycheck, and this is a day when we recognize the need for constant training and education on forklift safety.”

Every year in Kentucky, an average of three people die at work from accidents with powered industrial trucks, also called forklifts. There are more than 130 non-fatal injuries involving forklifts that result in days away from work.

“The Labor Cabinet is proud to support efforts to raise awareness about forklift safety and training,” said Kentucky Labor Cabinet Secretary Larry L. Roberts. “The vast majority of accidents involving forklifts are due to the lack of proper operator training. Nearly every accident or near miss incident can be traced back to a deficiency in understanding the capabilities and limitations of powered industrial trucks.”

The most common reasons for serious forklift accidents include the following:

- Crushed by vehicle tipping over
- Crushed between vehicle and surface
- Crushed between two vehicles
- Struck or run over by forklift
- Struck by falling material
- Fall from platform on the forks

Here are some of the most common forklift citations issued by the Kentucky Division of Occupational Safety and Health Compliance:

- Forklift with defect not withdrawn from service
- Lack of certification of training for operator
- Forklift not examined before placed in service

The Labor Cabinet provides free online training modules and webinars about forklifts and other workplace safety and health guidelines at [www.laborcabinetetrain.ky.gov](http://www.laborcabinetetrain.ky.gov).

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*The Kentucky Labor Cabinet's primary responsibility is to ensure that divisions and offices falling under the auspices of the Cabinet work within the jurisdiction of Kentucky labor law to ensure equitable and fair treatment of the Commonwealth's more than 1.9 million wage-earning employees. The Cabinet, according to regulation, has the duties, responsibilities, power, and authority relating to labor, wage and hour issues, occupational safety and health of employees, child labor, apprenticeship, workers' compensation insurance, and all other matters under the jurisdiction of the Labor Cabinet. For more information, visit [www.labor.ky.gov](http://www.labor.ky.gov).*

